



Borough of Swedesboro Council Meeting  
Swedesboro, NJ 08085

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 17, 2008

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

Swedesboro, NJ 08085  
March 17, 2008

A regular meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date in Council Chambers with the Honorable Thomas W. Fromm presiding. All Councilmen were present.

A moment of silent prayer was followed by the flag salute.

Mayor advised that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Law.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the minutes of 3/3/08, regular and closed, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Casella reported that the State Aid that the Borough would receive has been reduced and has drafted a letter and asked Council to review and give their comments.

Mayor reported that he went to Trenton with other Mayors of small towns to let the Governor know about taking away their aid. For the Borough it is a reduction of \$260,000 which is 13% of the budget and a \$.40 increase in the tax rate. Mayor stated that they are working with the legislators to have it restored and there is a chance of a compromise.

Mrs. Hale reported that the results from the County retail survey are in and 92% of the Swedesboro residents that responded voted to have the Borough continue to do what they have been doing which is revitalizing the downtown, retain the existing businesses, recruit more businesses and attract more dining establishments. Mrs. Hale stated that the biggest complaint is the overcrowded roadways.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Hale reported that the pre-construction meeting for Streetscape II was held on 3/4/08 and they will start the project on 4/14/08 and it will take 6-7 weeks and then 2-3 weeks for clean up. They will start at Methodist Church side first and the residents and businesses will be notified. Mayor stated that this will be less stressful than last time due to the fact that only one project will be going on at one time.

Mr. Flaherty gave out a brochure for a heavy plastic dock system that he felt we might be able to use in the future at the lake.



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Mayor reported that the Police Contract has been signed, Recycle bank cans have been distributed and the collection will begin next week. Mayor also met with the contractor doing the repairs to the Borough Hall which will begin next week.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing was held on the following ordinance: **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF LAND LOCATED WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SWEDESBORO AND EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS**

Mayor stated that the Borough is looking to obtain certain properties and have a package for a developer to plan a project with parking. None of the properties have residential dwellings on them. Mayor stated that the Borough is serious to obtain these properties and have no desire to use eminent domain and would like to enter into negotiations so that it is all fair.

The following people spoke for or against the ordinance:

Dennis Cheega, 1329 Kings Hwy.  
David Oppel, 1329 Kings Hwy.  
Robert Botto Jr., 1401 Kings Hwy.  
Joanna Gahrs, 550 Park Ave.  
Mark Beltz, 1301 Kings Hwy.  
Mike Murray, 423 Weatherby Ave.  
Joseph Bonage, 153 Franklin St.  
Toni Beltz, 1301 Kings Hwy.  
John Nothdurft, 1527 Kings Hwy.  
Anthony Granato, 1226 Kings Hwy.  
Judy Daley, 1518 Kings Hwy.  
Nate Russo, 1220 Kings Hwy.  
Karen Murray, 423 Weatherby Ave.  
Vince Botto, 1401 Kings Hwy.

The main concerns were the loss of use of property that is now parking to their business, loss of value to their property, cost to the taxpayers to obtain these properties, use of eminent domain if owners decide not to sell to the Borough, and a delay in process if plans are produced to develop by owner of property. Those in favor of the ordinance felt that the Borough should move ahead, there is a need for parking, fill in gaps in business district with viable businesses, feels town has turned around the last 4-5 years and need to keep moving forward, and felt initial cost to the taxpayers would be repaid by ratables of the new businesses.

M. James Maley Jr., Esq. Borough Redevelopment Counsel, explained the process that will be followed and answered questions from the audience about the process.



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Mr. Weeks moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Vote all yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Mrs. Hale. Roll Call Vote- Gage, Casella, no, all others yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Tonnage Grant)

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Stormwater Grant)

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Safe & Secure Grant)

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Casella. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to sign CDBG Agree. For Glen Echo Sewer)

Mr. Weeks moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote – all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Auth. Mayor to apply CBDG for 2008-Demo of bldgs. on Gen. Harker and Water St.)

Mr. Casella moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Clerk read the following resolution: (Emer. Temp. Budget)

Mrs. Gage moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dryden. Roll Call Vote- all yes.

Mrs. Gage moved to approve the NJ State Firemen's Assoc. membership application for Mark Landwher, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Mrs. Hale moved to approve sick pay benefits for Ronald Borden, 2/28/08, William Goodwin, ½ day, 3/5/08, Ken Hunt, ½ day, 3/6, 11/08, John Gangemi, 3/10, 11, 14/08, Michael Sparks, 3/13/08, seconded by Mrs. Gage. Vote all yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Gretchen Kunkle, 4 Merklng St. asked if she is to remain on Shade Tree Com. Mayor stated that it will be decided at the next meeting.



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Mrs. Gage moved to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Committee Reports

Garbage & Recycling – Mr. Dryden went over the trash and recycling report for Feb.

Economic Dev. – Mrs. Hale reported that the vendors for the Outdoor Garden Show have been mailed the applications for this year and that EP Henry will sponsor it.

Finance – Mr. Flaherty reported that they are working on the budget. Mayor stated that if they are making application for extraordinary aid that the application must be in by Monday.

Shade Tree – Mrs. Gage reported that 30 trees will be planted next month and that they will be participating in the Garden Show, Arbor Day and Earth Day.

Police – Mr. Weeks reported that he met with the Chief and the CFO regarding the Police Budget. Mr. Weeks stated that the Chief has submitted items for the website.

Mr. Weeks reported that the school boards are working on their budgets and there will be a public hearing on Kingsways on 3/25/08 and will meet with S/W District shortly.

Mr. Casella congratulated Stephen Spithaler for graduating to a Class I. Mr. Casella stated that Christian Gregory is doing well in the Academy and Ptl. Fratto is getting more hours.

Mr. Casella stated that there are items in the Crime Log for Swedesboro, submitted the Police Report for Feb. and thanked Mr. Weeks for including the form on our webpage that residents can download and submit to request the Police to watch their house when they are going to be away.

Mrs. Gage moved to pay all duly authorized bills, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Vote all yes.

Mr. Weeks moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Casella. Vote all yes.

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:59 PM.

Dolores M. Connors  
Borough Clerk